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EXAMINER

PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/930,780

Applicant(s)

EWING ET AL.

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2005 and 06 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/16/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 10-32 are subject to examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 5/6/2005 and 3/3/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reasons:

Interview:

Applicant's argument:

In an interview with Examiner Ashokkumar Patel and Primary Examiner Larry Donaghue on November 22, 2004, Applicant's Representative, Teresa M. Arroyo, presented a draft amended claim 24 and proposed new claim 33, and discussed how claims 10-33 distinguished over the cited references.

Examiner's response:

This instant amendment does not incorporate proposed new claim 33.

Priority:

Applicant's argument:

In response, this application is a Continuation-In-part (CIP) of Application No. 09/732,557, filed December 8, 2000. This CIP is an application filed during the lifetime of earlier non-provisional Application No. 09/732,557, repeats some substantial portion of the earlier non-provisional application, and adds, matter not disclosed (emphasis added) in the earlier non-provisional application. (In re Klein, 1930 C.D. 2. 393 O.G. 519 (Comm'r Pat. 1930)). The matter not disclosed in Application No. 09/732,557 includes at least the user display. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that this Continuation-

In-part application can properly claim the benefit of the prior non-provisional application under 35 U.S.C. j 120.

Examiner's response:

As Applicant has stated, the matter not disclosed in Application No. 09/732,557 includes at least the user display.

Examiner did not state previously that Application No. 09/732,557 does not disclose the user display. What Examiner stated in the previous Office action is "The instant application's incorporation of "a user display disposed on vertical strip enclosure whereby a user may observe information relative to the amount of current flowing through the power input and plurality of power outputs as shown in Fig.1, element 104 " which Examiner was unable to locate in the applications 09/735, 471 and 08/685, 436. And as such, the priority date was considered as being 12/08/2000."

Therefore, the user display as a claimed limitation is presented by the reference Liu (US 6, 476, 729 B1) and as such, in order to overcome the reference Liu (US 6, 476, 729 B1), the filing date of the earlier non-provisional application is actually needed. (MPEP 201.08). Therefore, Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 as follows:

The later-filed application must be an application for a patent for an invention which is also disclosed in the prior application (the parent or original nonprovisional application or provisional application); the disclosure of the invention in the parent application and in the later-filed application must be sufficient to comply with the

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requirements of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. See *Transco Products, Inc. v. Performance Contracting, Inc.*, 38 F.3d 551, 32 USPQ2d 1077 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) and Rejections under U.S.C. § 102 (b):
(US 6, 476, 729 B1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being Unpatentable over Schreiber (US 5, 424, 903) in view of Liu (US 6, 476, 729 B1)

Referring to claim 10,

The reference Schreiber teaches an electrical power distribution on plugstrip of the type for providing power to one or more electrical loads in a vertical electrical equipment rack (Fig.1, element 16, Fig.2), the electrical power distribution plugstrip comprising in combination:

- A. a vertical strip enclosure having a thickness and a length that is longer than a width of the enclosure (Fig.1, element 16);
- B. a power input penetrating said vertical strip enclosure (Fig.1, element 30);

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C. a plurality of power outputs disposed along a face of said length of the strip enclosure, each among the plurality of power outputs being connectable to a corresponding one of said one or more electrical loads (Fig.1, elements 32a-32f);

D. a plurality of power control relays disposed in said vertical strip enclosure, each among said plurality of power control relays being connected to independently control power from said power input to one or more corresponding power outputs among said plurality of power outputs (Fig.2, elements 46a-46e).

The reference fails to teach a user display disposed on said vertical strip enclosure and adjacent to the plurality of power outputs in information-determining communication with at least one among said power input and said plurality of power outputs, said user display providing information to a user, the information being related to the amount of current flowing through at least one among the power input and said plurality of power outputs.

The reference Liu teaches this limitation in Fig. 3, col. 4, line 64-col. 5, line 9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding Liu's user display such that the electrical parameters are displayed. It would have been obvious because it is difficult for ordinary users to measure the electrical parameters such as kilowatt-hour, power factor, watt, etc. of the electric appliances or the power source, Thus, it is desirable to provide an improved power source device with a display unit which is capable of indicating various electrical

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parameters of both the electric appliance electrically connected to the power source device and the power source as taught by Liu.

Referring to claim 11,

The reference Schreiber teaches electrical power plugstrip of claim 10 further comprising at least one intelligent power section disposed in the vertical strip enclosure and in which is disposed at least one of the plurality of power control relays (col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is nonprogrammable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device.", and Fig.2, elements 46a-46e).

Referring to claim 13,

The electrical power plugstrip of claim 10 further comprising a plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, each said intelligent power section being in independent communication with at least a corresponding one or more among the plurality of power outputs (col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single

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integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.”, col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section.(a plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, each said intelligent power section being in independent communication with at least a corresponding one or more among the plurality of power outputs.)

Referring to claim 15,

Keeping in mind the teachings of the reference Schreiber as stated above, the reference fails to teach the electrical power plugstrip of claim 10 wherein the user display is in current-determining communication with all among the plurality of power outputs through at least one current sensing device.

The reference Liu teaches this limitation in Fig. 3, Fig. 10, col. 4, line 18-col. 5, line 9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding Liu's user display such that the electrical parameters are displayed. It would have been obvious because it is difficult for ordinary users to measure the electrical parameters such as kilowatt-hour, power factor, watt, etc. of the electric

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appliances or the power source, Thus, it is desirable to provide an improved power source device with a display unit which is capable of indicting various electrical parameters of both the electric appliance electrically connected to the power source device and the power source as taught by Liu.

Referring to claim 16,

Keeping in mind the teachings of the reference Schreiber as stated above, the reference fails to teach the electrical power plugstrip of claim 10 wherein the user display is in current-determining communication with all among the plurality of power outputs through at least one current sensing device.

The reference Liu teaches this limitation in Fig. 3, Fig. 10, col. 4, line 18-col. 5, line 9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding Liu's user display such that the electrical parameters are displayed. It would have been obvious because it is difficult for ordinary users to measure the electrical parameters such as kilowatt-hour, power factor, watt, etc. of the electric appliances or the power source, Thus, it is desirable to provide an improved power source device with a display unit which is capable of indicting various electrical parameters of both the electric appliance electrically connected to the power source device and the power source as taught by Liu.

Referring to claim 18, 20 and 22,

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The reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.", col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference impliedly teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. The reference also teaches the power control relays as claimed in Fig.2, elements 46a-46e and master relay 42.. (wherein said intelligent power section comprises an intelligent power module having at least one of the plurality of power control relays and the corresponding power output for such one power control relay, and the corresponding power outputs for such one power control relay).

Referring to claim 24,

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The reference Schreiber teaches an electrical power distribution plugstrip of the type for providing power to one or more electrical loads in a vertical electrical equipment rack (Fig.1 element 16, Fig.2), the electrical power distribution plugstrip comprising in combination:

- A. a vertical strip enclosure having a thickness and a length that is longer than a width of the enclosure (Fig.1, element 16);
- B. a power input penetrating said vertical strip enclosure (Fig.1, element 30);
- C. a plurality of power outputs disposed along an area on a face of said length of the strip enclosure, each among the plurality of power outputs being connectable to a corresponding one of said one or more electrical loads (Fig.1, elements 32a-32f);
- D. a plurality of power control relays disposed in said vertical strip enclosure, each among said plurality of power control relays being connected to individually control power from said power input to one or more corresponding power outputs among said plurality of power outputs (Fig.2, elements 46a-46e); and

The reference fails to teach a digital display disposed on another area of said vertical strip enclosure and adjacent to said plurality of power outputs in information-determining communication with at least one among said power input and said plurality of power outputs, said user display providing information to a user, the information being related to the amount of current flowing through at least one among the power input and said plurality of power outputs.

The reference Liu teaches this limitation in Fig. 3, col. 4, line 64-col. 5, line 9.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding Liu's user display such that the electrical parameters are displayed. It would have been obvious because it is difficult for ordinary users to measure the electrical parameters such as kilowatt-hour, power factor, watt, etc. of the electric appliances or the power source, Thus, it is desirable to provide an improved power source device with a display unit which is capable of indicting various electrical parameters of both the electric appliance electrically connected to the power source device and the power source as taught by Liu.

Referring to claim 25,

The reference Schreiber teaches the electrical power plugstrip of claim 24 further comprising at least one intelligent power section disposed in the vertical strip enclosure and in which is disposed at least one of the plurality of power control relays. (col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is nonprogrammable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device.", and Fig.2, elements 46a-46e).

Referring to claim 27,

The electrical power plugstrip of claim 10 further comprising a plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, each said intelligent power section being in independent communication with at least a corresponding one or more among the plurality of power outputs (col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical

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power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device.” The reference also teaches “It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.”, col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference impliedly teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. (a plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, each said intelligent power section being in independent communication with at least a corresponding one or more among the plurality of power outputs.)

Referring to claims 29 and 31,

The reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, “The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device.” The reference also teaches “It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The

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embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.”, col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference impliedly teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. The reference also teaches the power control relays as claimed in Fig.2, elements 46a-46e and master relay 42. (wherein said intelligent power section comprises an intelligent power module having at least one of the plurality of power control relays and the corresponding power output for such one power control relay, and the corresponding power outputs for such one power control relay)

4. Claims 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schreiber (US 5, 424, 903) and Liu (US 6, 476, 729 B1) as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Lovenrich (US 5, 619, 722).

Referring to claim 12,

The reference Schreiber teaches "The sequence in which the switches 26c-26e are actuated and the time delay between successive actuation of the switches 26c-26e are stored in the memory of the microprocessor 40.(col.6, lines 36-40). The reference discloses that the microprocessor incorporated by the power strip has the capability to store and execute the commands pertaining to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs.(the vertical strip enclosure in network communication with the intelligent power section disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, whereby a user of the external power manager may control power provided to selectable ones of said plurality of power outputs.) Although, the reference teaches the external power manager which is a hardware device, Fig.1, element 14, which is used to control power provided to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs as stated in col. 6, lines 15-54, and although the hardware functionality of the device Fig.1, element can be implemented as being carried out by the software, since the claim includes external power manager application, the external power manager application is interpreted as being exclusively a software and its relevant hardware.

The reference fails to teach a user display disposed on said vertical strip enclosure and adjacent to the plurality of power outputs in information-determining communication with at least one among said power input and said plurality of power outputs, said user display providing information to a user, the information being related to the amount of current flowing through at least one among the power input and said plurality of power outputs.

The reference Liu teaches this limitation in Fig. 3, col. 4, line 64-col. 5, line 9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding Liu's user display such that the electrical parameters are displayed. It would have been obvious because it is difficult for ordinary users to measure the electrical parameters such as kilowatt-hour, power factor, watt, etc. of the electric appliances or the power source. Thus, it is desirable to provide an improved power source device with a display unit which is capable of indicating various electrical parameters of both the electric appliance electrically connected to the power source device and the power source as taught by Liu.

Both, Schreiber and Liu teach all claimed limitations except an external power manager application .

The reference Lovrenich teaches "a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer interface can be inexpensively manufactured." In col. 3, lines 8-14. The reference also teaches "The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device.", col. 6, lines 50-51. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber and Liu by adding the interface of Lovrenich such that the programming aspect of the hardware device of Schreiber is replaced and carried out by the interface

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of Lovrenich because the reference Lovrenich has disclosed that "the extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device."

Referring to claim 14,

The reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.", col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. (and in network communication with the plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, whereby a user of the external power manager may control power provided to selectable ones of said plurality of power outputs.) Although, the reference

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teaches the external power manager which is a hardware device, Fig.1, element 14, which is used to control power provided to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs as stated in col. 6, lines 15-54, and although the hardware functionality of the device Fig.1, element can be implemented as being carried out by the software, since the claim includes external power manager application, the external power manager application is interpreted as being exclusively a software and its relevant hardware.

The reference fails to teach a user display disposed on said vertical strip enclosure and adjacent to the plurality of power outputs in information-determining communication with at least one among said power input and said plurality of power outputs, said user display providing information to a user, the information being related to the amount of current flowing through at least one among the power input and said plurality of power outputs. The reference Liu teaches this limitation in Fig. 3, col. 4, line 64-col. 5, line 9) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding Liu's user display such that the electrical parameters are displayed. It would have been obvious because it is difficult for ordinary users to measure the electrical parameters such as kilowatt-hour, power factor, watt, etc. of the electric appliances or the power source, Thus, it is desirable to provide an improved power source device with a display unit which is capable of indicting various electrical parameters of both the electric appliance electrically connected to the power source device and the power source as taught by Liu.

Both, Schreiber and Liu teach all claimed limitations except an external power manager application .

The reference Lovrenich teaches "a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer interface can be inexpensively manufactured." In col. 3, lines 8-14. (an external power manager application external to the vertical strip enclosure) The reference also teaches "The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device.", col. 6, lines 50-51. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber and Liu by adding the interface of Lovrenich such that the programming aspect of the hardware device of Schreiber is replaced and carried out by the interface of Lovrenich because the reference Lovrenich has disclosed that "the extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device."

Referring to claim 17,

Keeping in mind the teachings of the reference Schreiber as stated above, the reference fails to teach the electrical power plugstrip of claim 10 wherein the user display is in current-determining communication with all among the plurality of power outputs through at least one current sensing device.

The reference Liu teaches this limitation in Fig. 3, Fig. 10, col. 4, line 18-col. 5, line 9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding Liu's user display such that the electrical parameters are displayed. It would have been obvious because it is difficult for ordinary users to measure the electrical parameters such as kilowatt-hour, power factor, watt, etc. of the electric appliances or the power source, Thus, it is desirable to provide an improved power source device with a display unit which is capable of indicting various electrical parameters of both the electric appliance electrically connected to the power source device and the power source as taught by Liu.

Referring to claims 19, 21 and 23,

The reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include,

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inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.”, col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference impliedly teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. The reference also teaches the power control relays as claimed in Fig.2, elements 46a-46e and master relay 42.. (wherein said intelligent power section comprises an intelligent power module having at least one of the plurality of power control relays and the corresponding power output for such one power control relay, and the corresponding power outputs for such one power control relay).

Referring to claim 26,

The reference Schreiber teaches “The sequence in which the switches 26c-26e are actuated and the time delay between successive actuation of the switches 26c-26e are stored in the memory of the microprocessor 40.(col.6, lines 36-40). The reference discloses that the microprocessor incorporated by the power strip has the capability to store and execute the commands pertaining to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs.(the vertical strip enclosure in network communication with the intelligent power section disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, whereby a user of the external power manager may control power provided to selectable ones of said plurality of power outputs.) Although, the reference teaches the external power manager which is a hardware device, Fig.1, element 14, which is used to control power provided to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs as stated in col. 6, lines 15-54, and although the hardware functionality of the device Fig.1, element can be implemented as

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being carried out by the software, since the claim includes external power manager application, the external power manager application is interpreted as being exclusively a software and its relevant hardware.

The reference fails to teach a user display disposed on said vertical strip enclosure and adjacent to the plurality of power outputs in information-determining communication with at least one among said power input and said plurality of power outputs, said user display providing information to a user, the information being related to the amount of current flowing through at least one among the power input and said plurality of power outputs.

The reference Liu teaches this limitation in Fig. 3, col. 4, line 64-col. 5, line 9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding Liu's user display such that the electrical parameters are displayed. It would have been obvious because it is difficult for ordinary users to measure the electrical parameters such as kilowatt-hour, power factor, watt, etc. of the electric appliances or the power source, Thus, it is desirable to provide an improved power source device with a display unit which is capable of indicting various electrical parameters of both the electric appliance electrically connected to the power source device and the power source as taught by Liu.

Both, Schreiber and Liu teach all claimed limitations except an external power manager application .

The reference Lovrenich teaches "a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer interface can be inexpensively manufactured." In col. 3, lines 8-14. (an external power manager application external to the vertical strip enclosure) The reference also teaches "The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device.", col. 6, lines 50-51. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber and Liu by adding the interface of Lovrenich such that the programming aspect of the hardware device of Schreiber is replaced and carried out by the interface of Lovrenich because the reference Lovrenich has disclosed that "the extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device."

Referring to claim 28,

The reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be

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appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.”, col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. (and in network communication with the plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, whereby a user of the external power manager may control power provided to selectable ones of said plurality of power outputs.) Although, the reference teaches the external power manager which is a hardware device, Fig.1, element 14, which is used to control power provided to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs as stated in col. 6, lines 15-54, and although the hardware functionality of the device Fig.1, element can be implemented as being carried out by the software, since the claim includes external power manager application, the external power manager application is interpreted as being exclusively a software and its relevant hardware.

The reference fails to teach a user display disposed on said vertical strip enclosure and adjacent to the plurality of power outputs in information-determining communication with at least one among said power input and said plurality of power outputs, said user display providing information to a user, the information being related to the amount of current flowing through at least one among the power input and said

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plurality of power outputs. The reference Liu teaches this limitation in Fig. 3, col. 4, line 64-col. 5, line 9) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding Liu's user display such that the electrical parameters are displayed. It would have been obvious because it is difficult for ordinary users to measure the electrical parameters such as kilowatt-hour, power factor, watt, etc. of the electric appliances or the power source, Thus, it is desirable to provide an improved power source device with a display unit which is capable of indicting various electrical parameters of both the electric appliance electrically connected to the power source device and the power source as taught by Liu.

Both, Schreiber and Liu teach all claimed limitations except an external power manager application .

The reference Lovrenich teaches "a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer interface can be inexpensively manufactured." In col. 3, lines 8-14. (an external power manager application external to the vertical strip enclosure) The reference also teaches "The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device.", col. 6, lines 50-51. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber and Liu by adding the interface of Lovrenich such that the programming aspect of the

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hardware device of Schreiber is replaced and carried out by the interface of Lovrenich because the reference Lovrenich has disclosed that "the extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device."

Referring to claims 30 and 32,

The reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.", col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference impliedly teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. The reference also teaches the power control relays as claimed in Fig.2, elements 46a-46e and master relay 42. (wherein said intelligent power section comprises an intelligent

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power module having at least one of the plurality of power control relays and the corresponding power output for such one power control relay, and the corresponding power outputs for such one power control relay)

Conclusion

Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abp


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